

PASPALUM VAGINATUM SUBSP. NANUM. A NEW STATUS

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Doell in Mart. Fl. Bras. **2**, 2: 75 (1877) based his description of *Paspalum vaginatum* Swartz var. *nanum* on a specimen, *Glaziou 4346*, collected near Rio de Janeiro in Brazil. Stapf (1900), maintained that the variety *nanum* also occurred in South Africa, citing only one specimen, *Wolley-Dod 2343*, collected on the Camps Bay shore in the Cape.

Chase (1929), in her revision of the North American Species of *Paspalum*, sinks the variety *nanum*, considering it to be an ecotype of *P. vaginatum*.

In a more recent work, Loxton (1974), mention was made of a few specimens cited by Launert (1970), which do not fit the description of either *P. vaginatum* or *P. paspalodes*. Differences in spikelet dimensions and of geographical distribution distinguish these specimens from the closely related *P. vaginatum*.

The spikelet lengths of this group of specimens range from 2,1-2,3 mm while those of *P. vaginatum* vary from 3,6-4,0 (4,5) mm.

From present distribution records this taxon has only been recorded from the south western Cape and South West Africa, growing under saline conditions along the coast (Fig. 1.) In two instances, however, it has been cultivated inland in South West Africa.

A noteworthy specimen, *Moses s.n.* sub NH 23442, collected in Cape Town and cultivated at Umbogintwini in Natal, maintained its spikelet dimensions although the plant is vegetatively more robust.

The evidence based on spikelet dimensions and also of geographical distribution necessitates the following change in status:

***Paspalum vaginatum* Swartz subsp. *nanum* (Doell) Loxton stat. nov.**

Paspalum vaginatum var. *nanum* Doell in Mart. Fl. Bras. **2**, 2: 75 (1877)

Paspalum distichum var. *nanum* Doell, Stapf in Fl. Cap. **7**: 371 (1900)

Type—Near Rio de Janeiro, *Glaziou 4346*, (P, syn.!)

MATERIAL EXAMINED

S.W.A.—2116 (Okahandja) : Farm Thorn Tree (-DD), *Pretorius s.n.* (WIND).

—2214 (Walvis Bay) : Swakopmund, Swakop River mouth c. 0,8 km from coast (-DA), *Van Vuuren 987* (PRE): Swakop River mouth, *Research Station Gobabeb 00102* (PRE).

—2217 (Windhoek) : garden in Windhoek (-CA), *De Winter 6068* (WIND).

—2314 (Sandwich Harbour) : Kuiseb River c. 12 km from Walvis Bay, (-BD), *De Winter 3185* (PRE).

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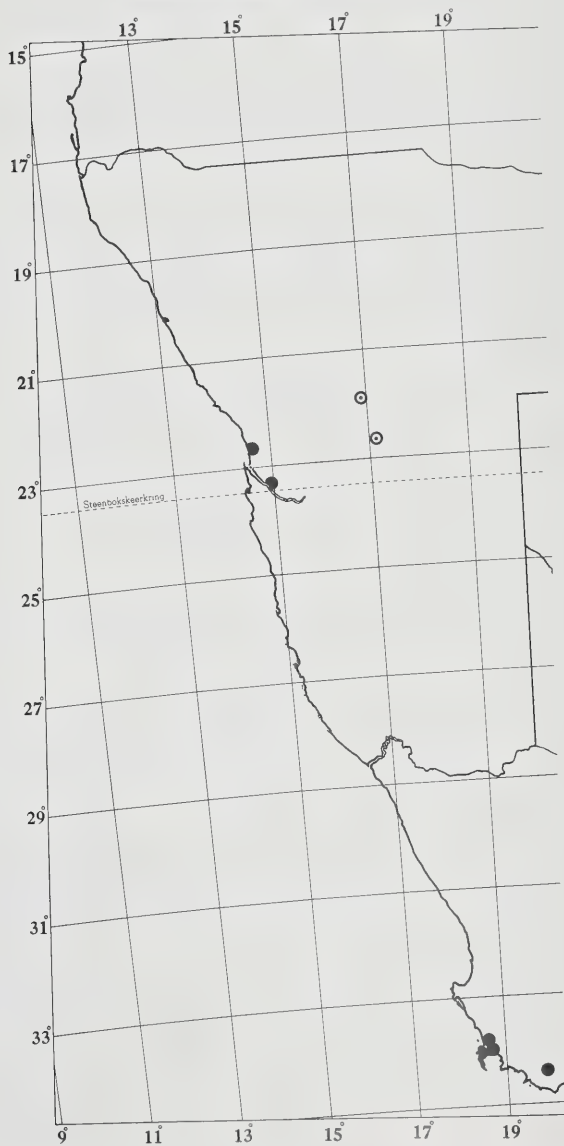


FIG. 1.

Distribution of *Paspalum vaginatum* subsp. *nanum*. ○ Records from cultivation.

CAPE—3318 (Cape Town) : Cape Town (-CD), sub PRE 299, Camps Bay shore, *Wolley-Dod* 2343 (PRE).

—3418 (Simonstown) : Prinses Vlei (-AB), *Mathews* 8214 (PRE); Krom River Lagoon, *Taylor* 7052 (PRE); Fish Hoek near Clovelly, *Crook* 1045 (PRE); Zeekoe Vlei (-BA), *Wilman* 217 (PRE); Ronde Vlei, *Adamson* 799 (PRE).

—3419 (Caledon) : Rooi Els (-BD), *Parker* sub PRE 34351.

NATAL—3030 (Port Shepstone) : cultivated at Umbogintwini, plants from Cape Town (-BB), *Moses* sub NH 23442.

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